

Dino Dini, Deenie Dino and Dudley Duck - last minute stocking filler anyone

Written by dreamkatcha. Any related videos, as always, can be found on my YouTube channel.

None of this would have been possible without the fantastic resources generously provided by immensely talented emulator authors, and communities such as Hall of Light, Lemon Amiga, Lemon 64, World of Spectrum, Moby Games, World of Longplays and Recorded Amiga Games. Thank you for your tireless dedication to preserving the history of gaming.

Quickshot is a name that should be familiar to all retro gamers. Manufactured by Spectravideo - a subsidiary of Bondwell - the range of products encompassed sleek gaming peripherals, mostly joysticks and joypads, that whilst being comfortable and responsive, didn't have the best reputation for durability. For that reason they were largely considered inferior to the much sturdier Competition Pros and Zipsticks.

Nevertheless, the latter *weren't* the ones that went on to become the notoriously coveted golden GamesMaster joysticks Spectravideo fans would be *Quick* to point out. That supreme honour was bestowed upon *various* Quickshot models which looked the part and would never need to

actually be played with. I loved them all the same, even the broken ones.

What *isn't* widely known is that parent company, Bondwell, also dabbled in the toy market. Save for the connection to the Amiga, their foray into the world of remote control 'vehicles' would have entirely flown under my radar... and I would never have had the pleasure to discover Deenie Dino and Dudley Duck. Why is this important? I've not quite sussed that out yet. I'll be sure to let you know if I have a brainwave though.



Unveiled in 1989, each were of the type to possess a forwards, left and right button, yet no reverse function or mini steering wheel. Fairly common for cheaper remote control toys back in the '90s, especially the ones with wires

that had to be followed. You wouldn't want to let them get to the 'end of their tether'.

What *did, however*, make them distinctive is the ability to transmit the operator's voice over a range of 20 feet via a built-in amplified speaker. I suppose you could sneak up on someone really slowly and quietly from behind and then holler down the receiver from afar, startling them out of their skin. Oh, what a jolly jape was had by all. So I've heard. I'd have been far too mature for that kind of frippery.



If you were lucky enough to have Deenie *and* Dudley you could even drive them into yonder distance, 19.999 feet away and stage an electronic puppet show of sorts.

Supplying both voices yourself; perhaps one male and one female. Because you wouldn't have had any *real* friends if you were doing this for entertainment. So I'd imagine. Limitless, are the possibilities!

If you found yourself growing tired of looking at the same old pair of eyes (?), serendipitously these were interchangeable. You could even opt for shades to pull off that iconic '90s attitude vogue all the marketing people thought would translate to instant appeal at the time. It largely explains the origin of 'Cool Spot', and also his rapid vaporisation into obscurity as the dubious phase inevitably soon passed.

Would you believe all this was made possible courtesy of a measly two 9 volt and 4 AA batteries? You might if you'd attended the 86th annual American International Toy Fair, seeing as Dudley was featured as part of an effort to reinvigorate the plateauing market. That's according to a New York Times article entitled 'Toys That Teach', which goes on to explain that the push this year - 1989 - was into the edutainment market.

A dinosaur and duck duo used to spook the neighbours, or remotely deliver a dinnertime meal order to your perplexed parents, not really pushing the boundaries of educational development, would likely have been sidelined. Which would explain why there's barely a mention of the terrible twosome to be found online. Searching eBay (via Google's archives) revealed a single, long-since expired listing from 2016 that sadly includes no pictures because eBay have purged them for storage conservation reasons.

Curse them! Have they no respect for vintage toy history preservation?

*Spiritual inspiration courtesy of Dino Dini... possibly-maybe-not-really.